# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2319
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE
ARUN KUMAR;MANJAY LAL

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government propose to make available cellular telephone service in the naxalite affected district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available to the people in such districts of the State?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): Sir, licences awere given for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Bihar Telecom Circle (which is contiguous with Bihar State including Jharkhand State) to two private operators namely M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd. (effective date 23.08.1996) and M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd. (effective date 12.12.1995). The licence of M/s Koshika in Bihar TelecomCircle was subsequently terminated.
As per the License Agreement granted to the private cellular operators, atleast 10% ofthe District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licenseeshave also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences granted. Nine cities have been covered by the existing private cellular operator in Bihar Telecom Circle as intimated by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI),namely: Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Jharia,Hazipur, Danapur, Chas and Muzzaffarpur. BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) were also granted licence for operation of Cellular MobileTelephone Service in Bihar Telecom Circle. BSNL have initially proposed to introduce Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the form of a Pilot Project in eight cities, namely: Patna, Biharsharif, Hazipur, Badh, Arah, Rajgir, Sasaram and Bhabua; the service by BSNL is likelyto commence during the year 2001. The case for introduction of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in other cities/towns of Bihar is also under process.